CLAIMS

1. A portable powered cutter comprising: a power source; an operation tube connected to the power source; a blade holder connected to a forward end of the operation tube; a rotary blade supported by the blade holder; and a transmission shaft inserted through the operation tube for transmitting rotational output of the power source to the rotary blade;

wherein the blade holder is pivotable about a transverse axis perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the operation tube by pressing the rotary blade against a ground surface, the blade holder being held at a selected pivotal position by a friction mechanism or an engaging mechanism,

wherein the transmission shaft is flexible at least at a portion between the forward end of the operation tube and the blade holder, the flexible portion of the transmission shaft being inserted through a flexible tube.

2. The portable powered cutter according to claim 1, wherein the forward end of the operation tube is provided with a first connector while the blade holder is provided with a second connector pivotally connected to the first connector, each of the first connector and the second connector being formed with a shaft insertion hole through which the transmission shaft is inserted and in which the flexible tube is accommodated.

3. The portable powered cutter according to claim 2, wherein the shaft insertion holes formed at the first connector and the second connector flare toward the transverse axis.

4. The portable powered cutter according to claim 2, wherein the first connector comprises at least one first connecting wall, while the second connector comprises at least one second connecting wall contacting the first connecting wall, the at least one first connecting wall being pivotally connected to the at least one second connecting wall by a bolt, the bolt providing the transverse axis.

5. The portable powered cutter according to claim 4, wherein the bolt comprises a head, a spring being provided between the head and the second connecting wall, the bolt cooperating with the spring to serve as the friction mechanism.

6. The portable powered cutter according to claim 4, wherein one of the first connecting wall and the second connecting wall is provided with a plurality of engaging recesses, the other of the first connecting wall and the second connecting wall being provided with an engaging member urged by a spring, the engaging member coming into engagement with a selected one of the engaging recesses, the engaging recesses cooperating with the engaging member to serve as the engaging mechanism.

7. The portable powered cutter according to claim 6, wherein

the engaging member is an engaging ball urged by the spring.

8. The portable powered cutter according to claim 6, wherein the engaging member is an engaging pin urged by the spring, the engaging pin being retractable by an operation device provided at the operation tube.

9. The portable powered cutter according to claim 2, wherein the friction mechanism is a braking mechanism operated by an operation device provided at the operation tube.

10. The portable powered cutter according to claim 9, wherein the braking mechanism comprises a brake drum provided at the second connector to be coaxial with the transverse axis, and a brake band wound around the brake drum, the brake band being connected to the operation device.

11. The portable powered cutter according to claim 10, wherein the operation device comprises a lever provided at the operation tube and a cable connected to the lever and to the brake band, the lever being pivoted in a direction to tighten the brake band around the brake drum.

12. The portable powered cutter according to claim 11, wherein the operation device further comprises a latch mechanism for preventing the lever from pivoting back after pivoting in a direction through a predetermined angle, the operation device

also comprising a release mechanism for releasing the latch.

13. The portable powered cutter according to claim 2, wherein an end of the flexible tube is fixed to the shaft insertion hole of one of the first connector and of the second connector, the other end of the flexible tube being axially slidably held in the shaft insertion hose of the other of the first connector and of the second connector.

14. The portable powered cutter according to claim 1, wherein the flexible tube is a metal bellows.

15. The portable powered cutter according to claim 1, wherein the blade holder comprises an input shaft connected to the forward end of the transmission shaft, the blade holder also comprising a blade mounting shaft connected to the input shaft via a bevel gear mechanism, an extension of the input shaft intersecting an intermediate part of the blade mounting shaft.

16. The portable powered cutter according to claim 1, wherein the transverse axis is offset downward from the longitudinal axis of the operation tube.